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1707-IRAN-DOCUMENTS

TEHERAN, JULY 4, REUTER -- THE STUDENTS WHO AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN PUBLISHED FURTHER WHAT THEY SAID SHOWED INTRICATE EFFORTS TO ENLIST FORMER IRANIAN PRESIDENT ABOLHASSAN BANI-SADR AS A U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) AGENT.

THE STUDENTS SAID THE DOCUMENTS, PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S EVENING NEWSPAPER KAYHAN, HAD BEEN FOUND AFTER THE NOVEMBER 1979 TAKEOVER OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHERAN. SOME HAD BEEN SHREDDED, BUT WERE PAINSTAKINGLY PIECED TOGETHER.

THEY DESCRIBED EFFORTS BY THE CIA, CODENAMED "R.T. ACTION", TO ENLIST MR BANI-SADR IN PARIS SHORTLY BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 1979 REVOLUTION AND LATER THE SAME YEAR IN TEHERAN.

THE DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED HOW A 63-YEAR-OLD MAN CODENAMED RUTHERFORD, WHO THEY SAID WAS A RETIRED CIA AGENT CALLED "VERNON CASSON," MADE CLOAK-AND-DAGGER PHONE CALLS AND TRIPS IN TEHERAN IN THE SUMMER OF 1979 TRYING TO WIN OVER MR BANI-SADR.

"LIKE MOST OF THE AMERICAN NAMES IN THIS REPORT 'VERNON CASSON' IS A PHONETIC RENDERING FROM THE FARSI ALPHABET USED BY KAYHAN.)"

THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH REFERRED TO MR BANI-SADR BY THE CODENAME L.I. OR S.D. LOER, INCLUDED NO EVIDENCE THAT MR BANI-SADR HAD ACCEPTED THE CIA OFFER, WHICH INCLUDED A 1,000-DOLLAR-A-MONTH SALARY.

BUT THE STUDENTS ALSO PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF WHAT THEY SAID WAS THE INTERROGATION OF LOCAL CIA OPERATIVE TOM BHERN, ONE OF THE HOSTAGES, DURING HIS CAPTIVITY. IT QUOTED HIM AS SAYING THAT MR BANI-SADR ACCEPTED THE OFFER.

MR BANI-SADR AT THE TIME WAS A MEMBER OF IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WHICH WAS RUNNING IRAN UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF RELIGIOUS LEADER AYATOLLAH RUHOLLAH KHOMEINI.

HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN PUBLIC SINCE HIS OUSTING LAST MONTH AS ARMED FORCES COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. HE WAS LATER FIRED AS PRESIDENT AND WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON THE DOCUMENTS.

THEY DESCRIBED THE CIA'S INTRICATE EFFORTS TO GET A SAFE "COVER" FOR RUTHERFORD IN CASE FORGED DOCUMENTS DID NOT STAND UP TO CLOSE SCRUTINY.

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